

# MINSK economic NEWS

1994. July

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## Long live the President?

### Resounding knock from below



**Yuri DRAKOKHRUST's** commentary may have had the heading, 'Troubles of the losers and everybody else. Naturally, the focus is the recent elections.'

To start with, here is a saying by a Polish philosopher Stanislaw Yezhi Letz. 'When I thought I was completely down, someone knocked from below.' To me, the outcome of the voting round of June 23 sounded like that very knock.

By winning the first round with a 45.1 per cent support, Alexander Lukashenko is clearly heading for the Presidential seat. However, the triumphant victor is apparently disappointed at not having won the elections outright. He was expecting to get at least 58 per cent of votes.

Sociologists predict a sure victory for Lukashenko in the coming round. Speaking at a press-conference on June 24, Lukashenko urged his electorate to come and vote for him again. He described the election results as a vote of no confidence to the government and local bureaucracy. He has promised to give freedom to the press, abolish censorship, give up the state monopoly in the mass media and put an end to the political persecution of journalists.

Lukashenko has assured his audience that a civil war is out of the question. "Who is going to

fight against the President who has been elected by the people?", said he. "70 corrupt bureaucrats? They've all got their cases packed and tickets bought for somewhere in the Himalayas". He gave a warning to the industrialists. He threatened to sack them all if the production is not restored by January 1, 1995.

The head of the future government is being speedily chosen. "The candidates are not a problem", says Lukashenko. "It is nothing compared to looking for someone to work as a milkmaid". Supposedly, the most likely candidate to solve the problem of staffing farms with milkmaids in the hot seat of a Prime Minister is the current Industry Minister Sergey Ling. In the run-up to the next round of voting Lukashenko is already behaving like the winner.

Lukashenko's victory has been grudgingly admitted by the government. He has been given back his access to government communications, and his cherished anti-corruption board has been reopened.

Please see, *The winner takes it all* page 2



On June 23 Belarus voted in her first-ever presidential elections and gave preference to the candidate of her choice. Will the success last the lucky one through the second round on July, 10?

### In line with the law

By Alexander PLASKOVITSKY

(continued from last issue)

CoME No. 406 of May 31 granted some ministries and departments the right to issue petrochemical licence after the Ministry of Resources and Petrochemical Committee were disbanded.

Under CoME No. 418 of June 3 the registration and re-registration fees for insurance companies have gone down twice and now make up four and one minimum wages, respectively. According to this rule, the director of an insurance unit must be a lawyer or economist with a higher or secondary education.

CoME No. 420 of June 6 sets out a procedure for determining the original country of commodities.

The Belarusian origin of articles is to be certified by the Trade and Commerce Chamber whereas the foreign provenance of goods is confirmed by certificates or statements (upon request) provided by appropriate foreign bodies.

The certificate must have an indication of the properties of the product and quality confirmation given by the issuing body. The original country is a country (a union of countries or a region) where the said commodities have been manufactured or sufficiently processed. The term 'sufficient processing' applies when the first four digits of the trade code have been altered and the value of articles has been increased after the appropriate technological and industrial operations have been performed. However, simple assembling does not qualify for this condition.

Imported vegetation and wildlife products as well as natural resources and waste have the origin of the producer country. Accessories belong to the same country the basic commodity originated from.

Articles shipped in several consignments can be regarded as individual units only if they have been separated by a mistake or the customs house is aware of the separation. The separated batches must have the same supplier and customs with terms of delivery being respected.

Commodities may not be taken into Belarus if it is known for certain that they originally come from the country which does not release such goods. However customs discounts are not granted unless it is known to a certainty where the article has come from. Nevertheless the for origin can be submitted in one year with the discounts taking effect immediately.

Please see, *Legal chronicle* page 4

## Reds lost — and won



Communists have suffered a crushing defeat in the elections. Calmly and quite painlessly, Belarus is leaving the Communist zone, says political analyst Vladimir MATSKEVICH.

The results of the first round of voting were no surprise to anyone, although no one could clearly predict its outcome. Only two things about it may be regarded as unexpected.

Firstly, in a country where pro-communist newspapers have the largest circulations, where the power of the Soviets still remains unshattered, which still gathers communists from all over the old Soviet Union, a communist candidate gets the least votes. Had Novikov left the campaign, Belarus would not have known the rating of its communists.

On June 23 the country decisively parted with communism and left it in the past. The parting did not require a shake-up such as the one of August, 1991, or a Moscow-

style bloodbath like the one witnessed in October, 1993.

Another surprise was the fact that Lukashenko's actual electorate proved to be a hefty 25 per cent higher than the 20-21 per cent which had been predicted by sociologists. Let us take a look at from where this unexpected support came.

The pro-communist and pro-popular front voters already play a fixed role in Belarusian politics and are a stable proportion of the electorate.

The effect of novelty may have been helpful to Dubko, but the biggest support he could secure by utilising it was 8-10 per cent. In Russia, novelty was an effective boost for Presidential candidates like Tuleyev and Zhirinovskiy.

In a more stable environ-

ment and with better developed political traditions, the elections would have marked the end of an overly ambitious politician like Lukashenko. The bulk of responsibility for the outcome of the first round of voting lies on Shushkevich and Kebich.

Although intellectual and very good as a speech-maker, Shushkevich has demonstrated himself as a powerless politician. His presidential campaign was so inept and poorly organised that the 9.9 per cent support he got is more of a victory than a failure.

I shall avoid a lengthy examination of the techniques of successful campaigning. I shall only mention that Shushkevich's excessive criticism of the government made him look like an agitator for Lukashenko, not like an independent candidate. It is up to Lukashenko to exploit the government's mistakes, but they are likely to bring few votes to Shushkevich, who, as a former member of the country's leadership, has a share in them.

Please see, *Finding the culprit* page 6

## Polling leap-frog

The NOVAK laboratory of axiometrical research has taken some readings of the candidates' ratings who run for the first Belarusian presidency. Initially, those were potential candidates which then got officially registered. The survey approached the adult population of Belarus which enjoy the right of vote.

### The first readings (April)\*

Lukashenko - 28.0%  
Kebich - 15.1%  
Shushkevich - 10.2%  
Karpenko - 5.8%  
Poznyak - 5.5%  
Sanchukovsky - 0.9%  
Unsure - 34.5%

### The second readings (June 3-9, 1,090 respondents)\*\*

Kebich - 21.8%  
Lukashenko - 21.8%  
Shushkevich - 13.1%  
Poznyak - 11.9%  
Dubko - 1.7%  
Novikov - 5.8%  
None - 16.1%  
Unsure - 7.4%

### The third readings (June 10-18 \*\*, 1,102 respondents)

Lukashenko - 24.8%  
Kebich - 20.6%  
Shushkevich - 11.6%  
Poznyak - 9.5%  
Dubko - 5.8%  
Novikov - 5.4%  
None - 10.5%  
Unsure - 11.7%

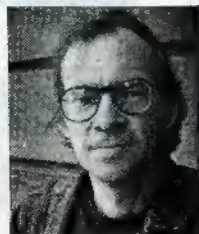
The first stage of elections is over. The pre-election race was specific because the rating of the two most popular public figures Lukash-

enko and Kebich had been turned upside down twice. In April Lukashenko had the rating much higher than that of Kebich. The week of June 10-18 turned out to be the most dramatic moment when Lukashenko's rating went up drastically as the elections approached. Lukashenko came to acquire features of a charismatic leader. We managed to catch this turning point, the H-hour, when Lukashenko's rating was on the powerful rise during the last 5 days in the run-up to the elections. One week before the elections the difference was relatively small. However, as a result of a huge and non-stop increase in Lukashenko's rating the returns of the real elections showed a considerable gap between the main rivals.

\* The survey has been carried out at the request of RFE/RL Research Institute.  
\*\* The survey has been carried out at the request of the East-West Centre of Strategic Initiatives.



# Looking over the borders



Head of the NOVAK research laboratory for axiometric research and a nice person, Andrei VARDOMATSKY appears in his habitual role of the Society's muckraker.

The NOVAK agency for sociological and axiometrical research has conducted an opinion poll as part of the EUROBAROMETER 4 programme.

The Minsk business RYNY has acted as the sponsor of the research. The 1,143 respondents who took part represented the adult population of Belarus aged 15 and over. The survey was unique as it used a uniform questionnaire and was conducted simultaneously in 16 countries of Eastern and Western Europe and 12 countries of the European community, which gave ample grounds for an extensive analysis.

The items in the questionnaire referred to the social and political situation in the republic. The percentages in the tables below present the replies received in the countries bordering on Belarus.

## A general assessment of the situation

In this item, we put the following question to the respondents.

In general, do you assess developments in Belarus as going right or wrong?

	Right	Wrong
Belarus	13	84
Russia	31	47
Ukraine	12	75
Poland	32	36
Lithuania	19	66
Latvia	41	34

## Changes in the economic status

The respondents were asked to report on whether they thought that their economic status had improved, deteriorated or remained unchanged.

	Deteriorated	Remained unchanged	Improved
Belarus	71	18	9
Russia	53	25	21
Ukraine	82	12	4
Poland	54	32	10
Lithuania	63	25	12
Latvia	54	30	15
CIS countries	63	21	16
EEC countries	34	50	15

## An assessment of democratisation

In this item, the respondents were put the following question.

Are you satisfied with the development of democracy in your country?

	satisfied	dissatisfied
Belarus	13	88
Russia	15	71
Ukraine	15	72
Poland	35	49
Lithuania	36	56
Latvia	36	61
CIS countries	15	71
EEC countries	43	54

## An assessment of the speed of reforms

The Participants were asked to respond to the following question:

From your observations, do you believe that the economic reforms in the country are:

	too fast	too slow	fast enough	not being carried out at all
Belarus	9.2	36.9	7.1	25.8
Russia	22	30	11	19
Ukraine	8	47	3	30
Poland	21	40	17	5
Lithuania	14	49	17	9
Latvia	11	44	17	11
CIS countries	17	35	9	22

## An assessment of the speed of privatisation

Here, the participants were offered to complete the following statement.

The privatisation is going ...

	too fast	too slow	fast enough
Belarus	10	43	11
Russia	19	29	18
Ukraine	7	58	5
Poland	31	24	17
Lithuania	24	38	22
Latvia	14	44	18
CIS (European part)	15	38	13

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# Tourism: hope for the needy

Research by the Independent Institute for Socio-Economic and Political Studies (IIEPS) suggests that a considerable part of the population has additional sources of income to fall back on in the hard times of an economic crisis.

Trade tourism is one of them. In 1991 little more than 30 thousand Belarusians travelled abroad as tourists. In 1992 this number went up to about 1 m. In comparison with 1992, the number of tourists travelling abroad rose by 50% over one year. The majority choose Poland, the Western neighbour of Belarus, as a medium for their business. 800,000 Belarusians visited the country as trade tourists in 1992. In 1993 Poland received 1,250,000 such tourists from Belarus. In terms of foreign trade, trips made by Belarusians who sell locally made products in Poland, Lithuania and Russia may be regarded as export.

Tours to China and Turkey are different. Traders travel there with cash, not products, which is used to buy goods for sale on the local market. This type of trade can be described as export. On an average, one trip to Poland brings the trader a net profit



The economic crisis in the country has made people look for ways of compensating for their falling living standards and real wages. Alexander GALKEVICH describes the solution chosen by many - petty trading on foreign markets, or trade tourism.

of \$130-150. A profit this big is generally made by those who do not practise this occupation as a profession. Experienced business travellers, or "shuttles", specialise in going to China or Turkey. They normally buy \$5-6.5 thousand worth of goods, which brings them a 50 per cent profit in one go. The annual turnover by professional traders was estimated at \$ 500 m in 1992 and at \$ 800 m in 1993. (These calculations were made by the author and are based on the estimated turnover per trip value and the statistical data available from emigration authorities - editor).

The turnover of the unofficial consumer export to Poland is comparable to that of food export to Russia or Lithuania. Regular food exporters to Russia make up to \$100 a week. This business has been made possible by

the populist economic policies of the Belarusian government.

After a major price increase in the January of 1992 Kebich's government attempted to freeze the prices of most local products, which made them a lot cheaper than the Russian ones. This was done for purely populist reasons.

Trade tourism has become a significant source of foreign cash in Belarus. To many, it is also a major source of income.

Large amounts of foreign cash are brought in by the Belarusians who have worked outside the country for three or six months. In 1992 about 300,000 people managed to find temporary employment in Poland. Highly skilled construction workers have a very good chance. The prospects do not look too bad for computer programmers and technolo-

gists. According to estimates by IIEPS, \$ 600 m were brought into the country in 1992. This amount went up to \$1 bn in 1993 and now exceeds the legal incomes of the working population by at least one and a half times.

The information on trade tourism, vehicle imports and business enterprise suggest that the amount of foreign cash owned by the Belarusians equals about \$ 2 bn.

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# The winner takes it all

By Yuri DRAKOKHRUST

Continued from page 1

The candidate is anxious to improve his image abroad. The promise to put them all away may work at home. In foreign policies, a different image is needed. Lukashenko rebuked the Russian press with trying to depict him as a populist monster. "I am not red. I am not going to go back to the dogmas I got rid of long ago", said he.

Staffing is one of Lukashenko's worst problems. He approaches it with remarkable pragmatism. This March he demanded Bogdankevich's resignation for being part of corruption in banking and mismanagement. At his last press-conference the winning candidate did not take his accusations back, but characterised Bogdankevich as very intellectual and professional. As Lukashenko admittedly wants to form a government of intellectuals, he may eventually

decide to use Bogdankevich, possibly, as the head of National Bank. Moreover, Bogdankevich himself has not excluded the possibility of working with Lukashenko.

The candidate is reportedly having talks with the former Interior minister Vladimir Yegorov, who is also a member of Shushkevich's team. He is willing to find ways of cooperating with some of the government members.

Apparently, the KGB is wide awake. Lukashenko told the journalists the other day how the head of the KGB Gennady Lavitsky sent a coded message to the KGB's regional divisions about the meeting of Lukashenko's team member Leonid Sinitsin with officers of the CIA.

Parliament speaker Mechaslav Gryb is anxious to keep an outward neutrality. When all the political establishment was trying to please

the Premier, Gryb was telling everybody that he hadn't yet made his choice. However, Lukashenko is obviously counting the speaker out. On July 27 he again accused him of having links with the Mafia.

Right after the first round there were insistent rumours about the government's intention to resign. Such a measure may have had serious economic consequences which may convince the people that they cannot do without Kebich. As Belarus is deep in debt to Russia, the Russians have every right to stop supplies at any moment. However, all the debts have been made by Kebich.

No resignation ensued. Kebich has said he was going to fight to the end. Commenting on the election results, he said that the people had voted for a union with Russia and against the falling living standards. Vyacheslav Kebich has announced a number of measures which he hopes will drastically increase his chances in the next round. He sacked

several ministers and deputy ministers who have allegedly been involved in wrongdoings and vaguely hinted at a possible government reshuffle.

Kebich is desperately trying to outplay his rival in his own domain. He announced the start of a new round of decisive fighting against corruption, organised crime and speculation. The Premier has ordered a reinforcement of street patrols and the pulling down of a few kiosks trading in consumer goods. For some obscure reason, the zealous advocates of the people's interests are invariably lead to organising primitive pogroms against business and accusing their opponents of having treacherous links with the West.

It appears as though the present regime is agonizing. In his interview with me he sadly admitted that he has already had a few deserters from his team. Let the conquered cry. All the rest, however, are in no better situation.

# Shaky peace bodes storm

By Alexander BURDA

Outwardly, although rich in political events, the first summer month in Belarus has not been marked by any significant developments in the economy. This initial observation, however, is rather superficial. June has been the month when the extensive political pressure on business has mounted to a peak.

This June, the government's legislative efforts were aimed at freezing wholesale and retail prices by cutting the trade mark-ups on meat, bread and butter. In addition, the mark-ups on poultry and eggs were pushed down to 15 per cent (see Legal chronicle, MEN 8 -9).

All these arbitrary measures had one ultimate goal -

stopping the price growth for the time of the election campaign. All these efforts have only resulted in huge under-supply of products in the state-run trading outlets and a rapid price growth on the black market.

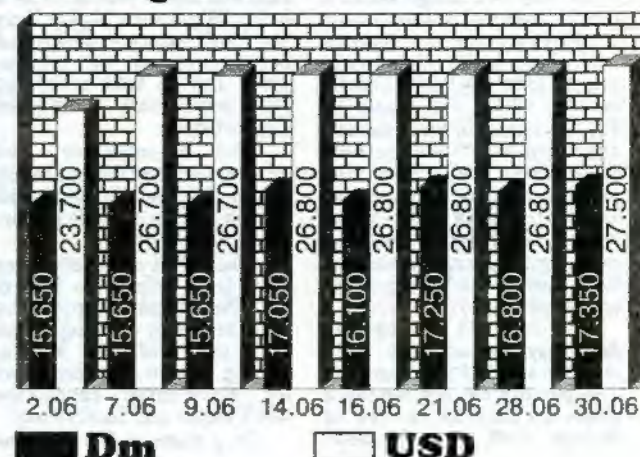
The government's care for the poor is apparently turning against them.

Over the past month, the Belarusian Rouble to Dollar exchange rate has gone up by a moderate 16 per cent, from BRB 23,700 to 27,500. This is the result of the efforts by the National Bank to stabilise the rate by selling significant amounts of hard currency (an equivalent of no less than \$ 1 m) and, particularly, Russian Roubles (RUR 6 bn) at the IBE. The policy of

the National Bank seems strange, since its head, Mr. Bogdankevich, is in open opposition to Prime Minister Kebich. Bogdankevich's actions are sooner to the benefit

of the government than to its detriment. Are they the result of his scruples as an honest professional, or a sign of yet another surprise to come from the country's rulers?

## IBE quotations in June







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# Lufthansa



# Legal chronicle



Continuing the publication of his guide to Belarusian legislation, Alexander PLASKOVITSKY examines its development by June 25, 1994.

Continued from page 1

CoME No. 424 of June 7 provides for legal continuity of Belarus in USSR-Canada treaty on the elimination of double taxation.

Under CoME No. 425 of June 7 the trade extra charges for bread, meat and butter went down to 10% starting June 9.

CoME No. 427 of June 10 was geared to fostering enterprise in this country. However, with these additional measures the Council of Ministers ended up limiting its own authority. From this time onwards the government's decrees on out-of-budget funds and registration of economic entities will be effective in three months after consideration and approval. The government sanctions including penalties will not come into force until they are published in press. Tax inspections are no longer able to impose mandatory sanctions on legal entities without filing a lawsuit. This does not go along with the law on tax inspection. However, tax inspectors are still entitled to arrest the amounts to be recovered before the court takes its decision.

CoME No. 429 of June 10 envisages that the cost-price of products includes advertising expenses in the amount of 2% of each rouble of the annual receipts (up to BRB 100 ml) and 1% of each rouble (over this amount).

CoME No. 437 of June 13 establishes a procedure for forming and allocating orders to deliver state-needed commodities. However, this procedure was stipulated by the law adopted last year. The government specifies that the state is not in charge of providing all the necessary supplies for production even if it is impossible to dodge the order. The procedure and terms for order assignment contests are arranged superficially. Apparently, a state order is still going to be a burden rather than blessing for entrepreneurs. The order will be formed by the state authorities headed by the Economy Ministry.

CoME No. 445 of June 14 make a provision for exemption from the value added tax. This regulation applies to the first sellers of foreign-made paper, printing dyes, photo-technical and as reference books as well as periodicals.

CoME No. 461 of June 15 grants banks the permission to purchase fire arms and ammunition for the security

of encashed and transported valuables. This is possible only if such services are legally available after the Interior Ministry has given its authorisation to obtain weaponry.

CoME No. 454 of June 16 envisages that donations contributed by the auditors to the Auditing Chamber are reckoned towards the prime-cost of products. Furthermore, the state is committed to sacrifice the Chamber millions of roubles as well as 50% of auditing earnings in favour of the state itself. The Chamber issues a licence for five years with the fees being two and ten minimum wages for private auditors and auditing organisation, respectively. Repeated licences will, therefore, cost one and five minimum wages. To obtain a licence private citizens are required to file an application and enclose a copy of diploma, workbook, a receipt confirming the payment of licence fees and an exam. For organisations it takes a copy of the charter, founding contract, registration certificate as well as information about the directors and payment papers.

Would-be auditors must have either higher economic education and three years standing in this field or secondary economic education with five years standing. Besides, auditors should have no previous convictions for economic crimes.

## NATIONAL BANK

On March 24 the National Bank Board approved new regulations on granting licences to carry out currency trade dealing operations. According to the new procedure, the basic requirements for the licence have been redressed. The paid authorised fund and stock of an enterprise as well as the balance on the entrepreneur's deposit account have been scaled from ECU 40,000 down to \$25,000. So far these are the only changes in connection with the relevant requirements.

For the licence to be issued and extended by the Hard Currency Economic Department it is necessary to submit an application, notary certified copies of the articles of association, information on currency exchange bureaus, information on directors in charge of currency change deals and a documents confirming the availability of \$25,000.

Private businessmen are also responsible for submitting a declaration indicating

the source of their funds. Directors and chief accounts are supposed to provide 82 and 92 rights answers for the quiz, respectively. A five-year licence costs 100 minimum wages whereas the charges for licence extension come to cost 50 minimum wages.

On the same day the National Bank approved regulations on currency operations concerning foreign investments in this country and abroad. These operations are only possible through the banks indicated in the licence issued by the National Bank. The licence on each individual operation requires a lot of different papers which confirm that the intentions are real and legal.

Profits generated abroad can be reinvested only after they have been transferred to a Belarusian bank and deductions have appropriately been paid to the state.

Belarusian subjects are entitled to open foreign accounts for carrying out industrial cooperation plans with foreigners, serving foreign loans, running a foreign mission, conducting specific operations which cannot be carried out by Belarusian banks, running health rehabilitation and cultural facilities, providing funds for business travelling trips.

On March 31 the Finance Ministry and National Bank approved instructions on forming currency funds. This procedure displays a mechanism of enforcing parliamentary and governmental statutes. The authorities have economic entities sell 65% of their currency earnings as well as extra pay commission fees (0.6%) to the Bank and currency exchange.

On April 25 the National Bank and the government granted permission to take BRB 174 billion worth of securities out of the country.

Under the same bill, it was forbidden to import securities except for cases specified by the Securities State Inspection.

On May 18 the National Bank Board passed enactment No. 5 which made the Belarusian rouble the sole legal currency in the Republic of Belarus.

On May 18 the National Bank approved regulations on penalties charged for economic entities for carrying out collection operations.

- for making cash operations in lieu of clearing deals: 50% of the amount accrued to the local budget;

- for excess cash: 25% and 50% for repeated excess. It must be mentioned that an excess is considered to be a total amount of cash unless the bank sets out a cash limit for the client.

- for concealing the cash as well as spending the cash for purposes not specified in the contract, etc.: 125% to the local budget and the same amount to the bank.

The serving bank is in

charge of monitoring and sanctioning.

On June 10 the National Bank and Council of Ministers defined a mandatory procedure for making bills of collection in connection with overdue payments for shipped products.

A regular bill of collection is to be filed in twenty days following the deadline. In case it is not made within 15 days the creditor then files a transfer bill of collection for the debtor. The bill of collection is good for 5-120 days. Interest rates are no lower than discount rates set by the National Bank. A transfer bill of collection can be accepted within three days. Any violation is liable to penalties: 5% of the overdue amount in favour of the budget.

## INSPECTIONS AND MINISTRIES

On March 9 the Ministry of Justice approved instructions on notary certification of papers for foreign activities. To obtain such documents it is enough now to get the permission note from the Ministry of Justice. There is no need to apply to the Foreign Ministry for legalisation. It was not a reality until Belarus signed up for the Hague Convention.

The documents should be either typewritten or printed on the paper of good quality. They are not allowed to fold, cross out blanks and put hot wax stamps. The date must be written in words. The first name, patronymic and last name of the notary public must be indicated in full. A one centimetre wide silk ribbon or white/red thread is used to bind the document made up of several pages.

On March 16 Minsk City Executive Committee openly introduced a new way of requisitions. It approached all the economic entities with a request to allocate funds in the amount of daily receipts for road and subway construction.

On April 13 Minsk City Executive Committee used its latitude and passed decree No. 362. According to this decree administrative penalties have gone up including the fine for fare-dodgers on a public transport by five times (up to 0.5 minimum wage).

On March 24 the Ministry of Finance clarified that enterprises belong to public amalgamations only in case if their authorised funds do not include the property of other organisations.

On April 15 the Ministry of Finance established a procedure for entering foreign economic operations in the accounting records.

On April 21 the Ministry of Finance introduced registration of computer accounting systems and, therefore, legalised their application in this country.

On March 30 the Securities State Inspection approved and then on April 6 registered single requirements for professionals working on a securities market. Securities are considered to be invested if they are purchased for a period of time longer than one month and, ultimately, yield proceeds.

All the persons signing papers on behalf of the securities market entity must have licences. The securities market entity should have 50% of the declared authorised fund in cash though current assets must exceed current liabilities.

The law on exclusive professional activities on a securities market applies to neither exchanges nor banks.

In March-May the State Property Ministry took some decisions concerning the circulation of 'Property' privatisation cheques. Out of all the bills we should single out temporary regulations on licensing activities of specialised investment funds which accumulate these cheques and a rough copy of the charter for these funds.

Both Belarusian and foreign investment funds must obtain a licence. To this end, the following papers are to be submitted to the State Property Ministry: an application, two notary certified copies of the founding papers, copies of qualification certificates for employees and qualification certificates for directors, a copy of the licence to carry out professional activities on a securities market, a balance of the fund, a plan for cheque allocation, information on the fund stock, a receipt confirming the payment of registration fees in the amount of two minimum wages. The licence is issued for a term of five years. It is valid only with a copy of the charter sealed and stamped by the State Property Ministry.

On April 12 the Board of the Public Security Fund approved instructions on charging and accounting insurance payments. The procedure had been agreed with many state departments. Under a contract the payment for provision of pensions for foreigners is transferred to appropriate funds in their home country. At the same time social insurance fees are not charged for foreigners at enterprises with foreign investments.

Enterprises make social insurance payments on the pay day whereas private employers and entrepreneurs do the insurance payments no later than the fifth day of the month and once a quarter as per the legislation, respectively. It is not allowed to withdraw money from the fund for social payments unless the employer is well aware that his payments will not cover that. Otherwise social payments are deemed to be future payments without taking inflation into consideration.

On April 26 the High Economic Court provided an explanation ground on settling disputes with the tax inspection involved.



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# A portrait of the victors

After the success of presidential candidate Alexander Lukashenko in the first round of voting, many journalists have tried to guess the names of those in his team.

A correspondent from the RID information agency has supplied us with the following list of people. At press time it was still unclear how the jobs would be allocated in his government. The choice:

## Alexander G. SINITSYN

Born in 1954. Was elected people's deputy and worked as deputy head of the Parliamentary Commission for Architecture and Construction. He succeeded Dmitry Bulakhov as the leader of Lukashenko's electoral team.

## Dmitry P. BULAKHOV

Born in 1959. Married. Has two daughters. Leader of the Parliamentary Commission for Legislation. Qualified as a lawyer. Has never been a member of the Communist Party.

Politically, he is fairly close to the centre, but has an affinity with the left-wing conservatives rather than radical reformers. He has an open mind about communists. However, in September 1991, abiding by the letter and spirit of the law, he denounced Parliament's decision to suspend the activities of the Belarusian Communist Party.

In May 1993 a man was injured after being hit by his car. Bulakhov, who was driving it, was later cleared of all charges.

After the parliamentary vote on the presidency he, together with Lukashenko and Gonchar, became one of the key figures in the newly-formed electoral trio which later made up the backbone of Lukashenko's team.

## Victor J. GONCHAR

Belarusian. Born in 1957 in the village of Radishchevo, Slutsk District, Minsk Region.

Graduated from the Department of Law at the Belarusian State University. Got a post-graduate degree from the Institute of Philosophy and Law at the Belarusian Academy of Science. Candidate and Professor of Law.

Deputy Head of Molodechno City Executive Council since May 1991.

Ran for membership of the Constitutional Court in April 1994, but failed to secure a majority vote by Parliament. In September, 1991 he voiced his disagreement with the decision to suspend the Communist Party in a parliamentary statement.

As a close associate of another presidential candidate, Vladimir Karpenko, he was regarded by many members of Lukashenko's team as his double-agent. Karpenko's failure to register as a candidate led some of his associates, and allegedly Mr. Karpenko himself, to make a number of unofficial statements urging the politicians to support Lukashenko as

one of the most likely alternatives to Premier Kebich. Gonchar may therefore become a political link between the two teams.

## Alexander J. FEDUTA

Born on November 3, 1964 in Grodno and raised without a father.

Graduated with distinction from the Department of Philology at Grodno University. Author of a book and a number of papers on Pushkin's literary heritage. Extremely well-read, knowledgeable in philology and philosophy.

During the election campaign to the last Parliament of the old Soviet Union supported a member of the Popular Front leadership, head of the Social Democratic Assembly Mikhail Tkachev. Since then his political views have changed significantly. His opinion of the Communists is reserved and appreciation of Kebich's Government negative.

In the Belarusian Youth League he held the position of the first secretary; was re-elected by the Youth League congress on June 4, 1994. Was voted out of his position as the leader of the Republican Labour and Justice Party, dismissed from the post of editor-in-chief of the party's publication, TSENTRALNAYA GAZETA and, ultimately, expelled from the party itself for cooperating with Alexander Lukashenko.

In Lukashenko's shadow cabinet he coordinates the 'brain group' and is his trusted media adviser.

## Valery V. TSEPKALO

Single. Born on February 22, 1965 in Grodno. Graduated from the Institute of Foreign Relations in Moscow. Until 1992 followed a postgraduate study programme and taught at the Department of International Public Legislation and Administration of the same Institute. Lawyer and political scientist. Competent user of English and Finnish; has a satisfactory command of Polish. Established far-reaching connections abroad with influential politicians and financial authorities.

Worked with the Soviet Embassy in Finland for the six months of 1990-91 and was afterwards employed by the Belarusian Foreign Ministry. In his employment period he criticised the Foreign Minister Piotr Kravchenko for what he described as 'being overly zealous in

cultural promotion and neglecting the economic interests of the country'.

In the leadership of the CIS countries he has been the youngest adviser. He helped Stanislav Shushkevich with foreign and economic policies. When Shushkevich was succeeded by Mechaslav Gryb, Tsepkalo was summoned to the secretariat of the newly-elected Parliament Speaker and was offered voluntary resignation. He ignored the offer as unlawful, but did not file a lawsuit. He soon became an advisor to the executive secretary of the CIS, Ivan Korotchenya.

In response to Lukashenko's offer of a post in his team Tsepkalo was told 'to make a final choice'. He opted for Lukashenko and lost his job with Korotchenya on June 10, 1994.

In Lukashenko's 'brain group' he is a leader and major contributor of ideas to his candidate's programme.

## Mikhail Yu. SAZONOV

Born in 1956. Was dismissed from his position as Head of the Department for Economic Crime at the Belarusian Interior Ministry for alleged disciplinary wrongdoings. There are reasons to believe that the dismissal came as a reprisal for Sazonov's refusal to leave Lukashenko's anti-corruption board.

In Lukashenko's board he was supposedly responsible for investigating the alleged involvement of the republic's leaders in corruption and their links with the Mafia.

## Yury G. MALUMOV

Born in 1957. Was dismissed as deputy head and head of the economic crime

department of the Interior Ministry for the same reasons as Sazonov.

## Piotr A. KAPITULO

Doctor of Economics, Professor at the Institute of Economics, Belarusian Academy of Science.

## Nikolai A. BORISEVICH

Honourable President of the Belarusian Academy of Science.

## Valery G. TIKHINYA

Deputy head of Constitutional Court. Suspended his membership in the parliamentary faction of the Popular Movement of Belarus as co-ordinator after his nomination.

When asked by the RID correspondent to comment on the people in his team, Lukashenko gave the following reply: "My team is the youngest and most promising team of intellectuals. They are honest people and I can fully rely on them. They have been harassed and pressurised to leave my team, but they didn't give in."

"Each of them has his own opinions, but all share the basic ideas of my programme. Each makes his own contribution, which is good. Even though I do not support all the ideas of my team member People's Deputy Lebedko, I respect his opinions not least because they are shared by other young politicians. No other team can boast a member whose education is nearly as good as Valery Tsepkalo's."

# Faces and images



By Roman YAKOVLEVSKY

At the 13th session of the Supreme Soviet of Belarus in January 1994 the deputies deposed Stanislav Shushkevich. Mechaslav Gryb was elected speaker of the Parliament by a majority of votes. Prior to his election he headed the Standing Commission on national security.

"I don't think we should build capitalism", said Gryb in one of his first speeches after the vote. Mechaslav Gryb believes that we need to build a new society without discarding such merits as state and collective farm ownership. When Shushkevich was in power the Supreme Soviet was deprived of the opportunity to influence the national economy. The new Speaker thinks that this was wrong. The Economic Council was set up under the chairmanship of the Supreme Soviet. Gryb supported the policy of Kebich's administration which had been working towards a monetary union between Russia and Belarus.

Mechaslav Gryb worked in legal bodies of Belarus for over 20 years before he became a deputy of the Supreme Soviet. In 1985 he was appointed director of the Vittebsk regional department of internal affairs.

When Chairman of the Parliamentary Commission on National Security, Gryb spoke in favour of the KGB reshuffle and competition between special services of the KGB, frontier troops and Ministry of Justice. He did not share ex-speaker Shushkevich's disapproval of the CIS Treaty of collective security.

At his first press-conference as Speaker Mechaslav Gryb said that he had never been affiliated with any deputy faction. However, the leaders of the parliamentary majority from the Belarus deputy group assure that Gryb was a founder of this pro-government faction in the Supreme Soviet. Incidentally, Gryb did not consent to becoming.

Speaker until he enlisted the backing of majority. After Gryb had taken the office of Speaker the Popular Front said that Belarus would be sliding downhill to a free surrender of its sovereignty. It is not a secret that many of us were caught unawares and put on guard after the Militia Lieutenant-General was unexpectedly elected the Head of Parliament. The press spoke ironically of the fact that Gryb had left a fire-brigade vocational school in Lvov, Ukraine. At the same time no mention was made about the diploma of lawyer

attained by the would-be speaker upon graduation from the Belarusian State University in Minsk. Political observers spoke about Gryb's stance on the Belarusian-Russian monetary union agreement signed by Premier Kebich. Under this agreement the National Bank of Belarus stipulated by the Constitution is to be abolished. Speaker Gryb hailed the integration with Moscow on condition that the Belarusian constitution be respected. According to some analysts, Gryb is doing much better than his predecessors in setting up the state machinery. He decided not to run for presidency at the summer presidential elections. The rumour circulates that Kebich promised to appoint Mechaslav Gryb Chairman of the Constitutional Court provided the Premier got the upper hand at the elections. With the elect President who is the Head of the state and executive power the speaker ceases to be the highest ranking official in this country. If President is not elected in July, Mechaslav Gryb will be serving as the Acting President until the elections are re-run as it is articulated in the Constitution.

Mechaslav Gryb was born on September 28, 1938 in the village of Savichi, Grodno Region. The character of the speaker utterly corresponds to his sign of the Zodiac. His colleagues say that he has all the traits typical for the Libra sign, such as self-control and prudence.

Mechaslav Gryb's wife is an accountant. His son is a doctor and has the first degree in medical science. His daughter is a student. The wedding of the Speaker's daughter and the Defense Minister's son has become the recent hot news. Mechaslav Gryb loves books and has a rich home library. He is fond of fishing.

Mechaslav Gryb does not stress the need to maintain Belarus' neutral status as much as his predecessor Shushkevich. Nor is he willing to make a quick decision about the country's participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace programme. The new Speaker has made no radical reshuffles in the leadership. He appointed Leonid Yevtenov, a diplomat with a rich work experience in the USSR Embassy in Switzerland, as his foreign policy adviser. Gryb's reserved and thoughtful manners liken him to President Mitterand. His good leadership skills have ensured his steady rise in Belarusian politics.

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# Where's the beef?



Our **ANONYMOUS** food-lover has been compelled to resume his restaurant adventure-seeking by an increasing shortage of food supplies in the shops. As he has found, restaurants are no respite from food shortages.

In my last column I mentioned how I had become accustomed to conditions in this part of the world, and how in this sense my situation may be different from that of many foreigners in Minsk. I had almost forgotten what life is like in the consumer's paradise of the West. Then I risked my sanity and went home for a week, where I seriously contemplated leaving all my troubles and headaches behind me here and going home for good. But alas, duty calls, and I returned for another bout of suffering.

Bearing this in mind, I may seem overly critical about the two establishments my dining companion and I visited for lunch yesterday. However, as this newspaper is aimed predominantly at the foreign reader, I think my assessment will be pretty much on the mark.

I had heard several people mention an Uzbek cafe **UZBEKISTAN** located at Kirova, 25 (phone 27 75 51) not far from the Dynamo stadium in the centre of town, but hadn't had the opportunity to visit it. I enjoy exotic food, and was really looking forward to a meal po-Uzbeki. I was less than impressed. The cafe was opened some five years ago, and I'm sure that at that time it was considered a ritzy establishment. Times have

changed. It was crowded (ordinarily a good sign) and rather run-down, with decor that left a lot to be desired. It seemed rather popular among the less desirable elements of the city, if you know what I mean. All they could offer us was plov, a Central Asian rice dish made with lamb, if we didn't want to wait half an hour for anything else on their extremely limited menu. To top it all off, they didn't have any lamb! Their plov was being made with surrogate, and according to the waitress, quite old beef. Not an option. My dining companion and I decided to head off in search of cuisine on a higher level.

We thought we had found it. We ended up in a restaurant at Prospekt Skoriny, 19 called "Syem Pyatnitsa", or "Seven Fridays" (phone 27 69 01). This joint Polish-Belarusian venture, located in the spacious basement of **PAVLINKA** souvenir shop in which it is located, looks to have recently undergone a complete refurbishment, and the decor is at worst acceptable. The fact that we had to hunt for the Maitre'di to be seated in no way detracted from decor. So far, so good. What can one say about a restaurant that doesn't even offer Pepsi or Coke on its menu? Strange but true! It's not as if these staples of a Western diet are hard to come by these days in this city.

We arrived for lunch at Seven Fridays at 13.10 and, upon locating our hostess and being seated, were given a menu for our perusal. Notice my use of the singular in "a menu". Why do typical Soviet restaurants insist on providing only one menu to a table? It's beyond my feeble comprehension. Anyway, let's not pick flies. At least this menu, in contrast to the one at the Uzbek cafe, offered a fairly wide selection of dishes for our culinary delight.

At 13.45, over half an hour after having walked through the doors, our starters were finally brought to us. I had tomatoes stuffed with a white-ish sauce with ham and a hint of garlic, which were entirely satisfying to a man who had worked up a considerable appetite waiting over half an hour for them. My dining companion's Salad a la Seven Fridays, according to him, was less than exhilarating, however.

Upon finishing our salads, I watched with envy as my friend enjoyed his stuffed pike while I waited patiently for my creamed mushrooms. I was told, not impolitely, mind you, that they would be coming a bit later. They came much later, in fact after our soup had already been brought to us. I am inclined to say that my soup, called "solyanka", was probably the most appetising part of my meal.

When our main course finally came, at approximately 14.35, we were less than impressed. My chicken baked in cheese was bland, and there was practically no garnishing worth mentioning; one slice of gherkin, a small radish which was fancily cut to resemble a flower, and a rather poor attempt at a sauerkraut.

We got out of there at 14.45, over one and a half

hours after coming in on our lunch hour! I assume the slow service is merely a reflection of the Soviet work ethic: who, after all, is in a hurry to get back to work? Take the rest of the day off! What the hell!

Allow me to boldly take this opportunity to make a couple of suggestions. Firstly, may I kindly suggest to the management of Seven Fridays to put their workers through some vigorous training on the methods of restaurant service. Give every sighted adult a menu for a start! Do not force your customers to hunt for the hostess only to find her sitting around a table chatting with her colleagues. She is there to greet customers with a warm smile as they come through the door. Secondly, may I humbly suggest to **MEN** readers to avoid the Uzbek place entirely, and Seven Fridays at least for the time being until my advice to its management is heeded.

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## Finding the culprit

By Vladimir MATSKEVICH.

Continued from page 1

Moreover, Shushkevich's electoral platform may hardly be described as constructive. Lukashenko is unbeatable in criticising the government. His major weak point is constructive ideas. Shushkevich's team has been too slow to take this in. In the meantime Kebich's unwary campaign in the government controlled media was playing into Lukashenko's hands.

The 17 per cent electoral support for Kebich, some of it got by bribing and pressurising the voters, may be regarded as a clear vote of no confidence to the government. His inability to efficiently use all the opportunities in the government's disposal just proves the fact that the executive power does not control the situation in the country. These inefficient governors have betted on Kebich, who in his turn has tried to sell the positive image of his government to the people. The premier's team was fully using its power and indoctrination skills to support its leader.

However, all the big effort made has not produced the desired result.

The election results of June 23 may have been a victory of democracy if not for the unfortunate result in terms of the leader at the polls.

In a country where culture and law do not count, a democratic choice is invariably to the benefit of the mediocrity. The mediocrity is always on top when the responsibility is laid on external factors, such as borders, customs, the collapse of the Soviet Union. It comes forth where the intellectuals and ruling elite are lazy, powerless and sightless.

Until now the question of the Front's accountability for

the events in the country has not been raised. It is true that the Front is currently in opposition, not in power. Although in opposition, it is doing more for the country than the government in office. The front can offer the most rational and realistic programme of easing the country's predicament and has the best team for its realization. However, the Popular Front still bears a lot of blame.

It is guilty of being unable to overcome its status as a limited group of intellectuals and being on the sidelines of political life.

It is guilty of not being flexible in its language and culture policies.

It is guilty of placing the falling living standards, growing corruption and the country's trade balance above the individual rights and freedoms which are intrinsic to modern democracies.

It is guilty of being passive in the struggle for the chance to get their message across to the public and of staying on the sidelines of mass communication.

It is guilty for being out of line with the events and doing the wrong business of thinking for the government.

It is guilty for not being able to offer reasonable political deals and to build alliances.

This heavy burden of mistakes has made the Front isolated in the fight for votes.

By voting enthusiastically in the first round the people have clearly supported the ideas of Presidency and sovereignty as such but have not made the choice of their President. Is there really a need to hurry? Would Parliament speaker acting as President for the time being be a better alternative?

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## A WORKING DELEGATION FROM THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

headed by Deputy Minister Andrei Konoshin has visited Belarus. The visit was part of a joint initiative aimed at promoting bilateral technical cooperation between the two countries' military. At the end of the visit, the Belarusian Deputy Minister of Defence and his Russian counterpart signed a Proto-



A hand grenade has been thrown into the entrance door of a block of flats in Pulikova Street in Minsk. The bombing took place on the night of July 1. The probable target was the Government Secretary and supervisor of the Interior and Defence ministries Gennady Danilov.

col on further military cooperation between the two republics, which they have described as mutually beneficial.

## ABOUT 15,000 OFFICERS

have been discharged from the Belarusian armed forces over the past two years. At the same time, the proportion of native Belarusians among the country's officers has risen from the original 16 per cent to today's 47 per cent. The number is expected to rise to 53-55 per cent when more military college graduates enroll in the Belarusian army. In a year the percentage will probably rise still further, to about 65 per cent.

## LAWYERS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

is the name of a newly formed national association in Belarus. It is committed to mobilizing the lawyers' efforts to eliminate the threat of a nuclear war and to encourage respect for the UN Charter as a legal basis for international agreements on the control and reduction of strategic offensive weapons.

## BELARUSIAN JOURNALIST LEAGUE

has addressed the Secretary General of the International Federation of Journalists with an open letter. In their address, the journalists have voiced concern about the serious problems faced by the Belarusian press, which they believe is increasingly falling under rigid Government control. "Any newspapers unfavoured by the Government may face immediate sanctions", went the open letter. "The popular Belarusian radio programmes BELARUSKAYA MALADIOZHNYAYA and KRINITSA as well as the newspapers SVABODA and NASHA NIVA have already become the victims of such sanctions. Repeated protests by the public, politicians and the Commission for Freedom of Information have had no effect." The Belarusian Journalist League

has requested the International Federation of Journalists to discuss the situation in the Belarusian mass media and forward the letter to the Federation's member organisations.

## THE UNEMPLOYED IN MINSK

have the best education. Such was the unexpected conclusion made by sociologists at the Minsk Employment Centre following a sociological and demographic analysis of unemployment statistics. Sixty-six per cent of the unemployed in Minsk hold degrees from universities (45 per cent) and technical colleges (21 per cent).

## PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN LEADER

Alexander Lukashenko was roughed up by the militia On June 28. Force was allegedly used to prevent him from opening the door of his office where he used to work as Head of Parliament's Anti-Corruption Board. Lukashenko was subsequently treated for light injuries. Photographer Alexander Kushner was filming the incident. On the following day, Alexander Kushner was stopped in the street, pushed into a car and driven away into a forest outside Minsk, where he was viciously beaten. The kidnappers, who have not yet been found, were anxious to know who had informed the journalist about the incident with Lukashenko. It looks as though politicians have finally realized that journalists and reporters do count in real politics. This seems to be the one hidden but positive outcome of the mini-scandal.

## BELARUSIAN OPTICS MANUFACTURER BELOMO

has held a presentation in Rostok, Germany. The visitors were met with a wide range of optical and electronic products, parts, units and industrial technologies. The exhibits ranged from optical electronic systems to miniature optical units and included equipment for space geodesical photography, observation devices, such as lenses, magnifying glasses, monoculars and binoculars; back-sights, cameras, slide projectors, television alarm systems and computer scanners. The visitors were also invited for an exhibition of holographic pictures and portraits and demonstrated the factory's achievements in technology. The German side was interested in many of the products on show and has praised the exhibits as of good quality, although inappropriately designed, said Victor Malinka, deputy-head of PELENG design bureau. If improved and modified, the products might easily compete on the German market. The numerous technological advancements used in some of the factory's products were also met with approval.

## BELARUSIAN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS HAS RAISED THE MINIMUM WAGE TO BRB 100,000.

The government act came into force on July 1. Under the act, the republic's ministries and local executive authorities are obliged to re-consider the pay scales of state employees. The wages of such employees are expected to almost double.

## THE MANAGEMENT OF THE MINSK UNDERGROUND

has turned to private business with an offer of free advertising in return the purchase of a metro train. No response to the offer has so far been received. The management of the metro attributes this to the high cost of vehicles. The price of just one metro wagon has recently gone up to RUR 300.

## ALEXANDER LUKASHENKO

has been accused of trying to compromise the leadership of the Belarusian Army with unfair corruption charges. The Defence Minister has filed a libel suit against him and expressed disappointment at Lukashenko's failure to turn up at the court session.

## BELARUSIAN NATIONALS

will not be required to have a visa to travel to Lithuania for the time of the celebrations of the Belarusian liberation day. The same applies to Lithuanian nationals travelling to Belarus. Under the agreement between the two countries' governments, a Lithuanian visa will not be required for Belarusian citizens aged over 60. For those travelling to sanatoriums in Latvia a Lithuanian transit visa will not be needed until January 1, 1995.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION DEPARTMENT

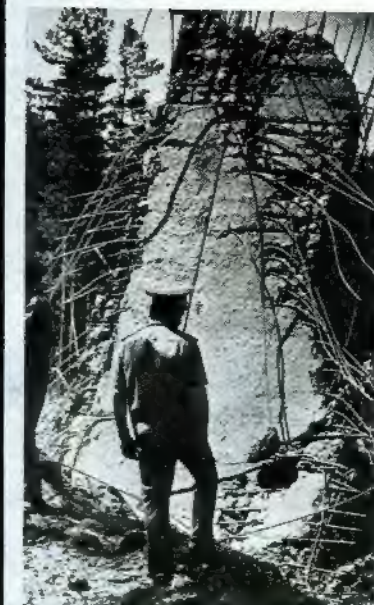
of the traffic militia in Minsk has been given additional powers by the Minsk City Executive. Under the Executive Council act, the Department has the authority to set the fines for excessive air pollution by exhaust fumes of car engines. The fines have recently been increased from 0.2 per cent of the minimum wage to one minimum wage for a first-time offence and to 1-2.5 minimum wages for a repeated offence.

## BELARUSIAN DEFENCE MINISTER

Pavel Kozlovsky has given a press conference. He told the journalists that crime in the Belarusian Army has fallen by eight per cent over the last six months. The number of accidents resulting in deaths and severe injuries of servicemen has gone down by a quarter.

## METROPOLITAN OF MINSK AND SLUTSK

Filaret has addressed the public with a message dedicated to the 50th anniversary of the country's liberation from the Nazi invasion. "The recent war aroused a wave of patriotic feelings in people's souls", went the message. "It united the people, reminded them of their heroic history and spiritual values which have been passed on from generation to generation." "We pray for our blessed Belarusian land, Army and people, for peace in the whole world and for the well-being of all God's Churches. May we live and work in harmony with each other and to each other's benefit."



Four Russian strategic missile regiments are due to be pulled out of Belarus. Under the SALT treaty, the missiles will be dismantled and launching sites and storage facilities destroyed. Belarus is to destroy 81 launching sites. The first was destroyed by means of explosives in late June in a forest near Slutsk.

## MONETARY UNION WITH RUSSIA MAY COME INTO FORCE

as early as this August, said Russian Vice-Premier Shokhin. According to Mr Shokhin, an agreement on the terms and conditions of the Belarusian to Russian rouble exchange will be signed during the visit of the Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin to Minsk on July 3.

Information compiled from Belarusian newspaper and information agency RID sources.



A war memorial has been opened at the crossroads of Kalinina and Yakuba Kolasa Streets in Minsk. The opening took place on the site of a former Nazi concentration camp. The event marked the 50th anniversary of Belarus' liberation from the Nazis.

## Minsk Economic News

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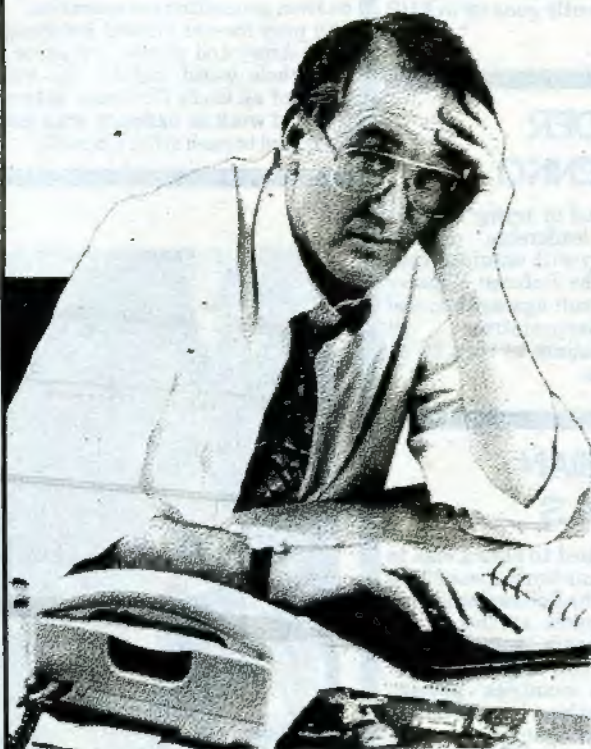
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2. Which of those goals have you achieved since your arrival?
3. Which goals have been difficult to achieve here?

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3. Our problems ranged from late deliveries of essential equipment to misunderstandings resulting from language or cultural differences. One major problem was working out the logistics of managing offices in regional centres from a head office in Minsk.

We hope the answers provided will sharpen your awareness of the difficulties faced by foreign enterprises and organisations in Belarus.

MEN editorial board would welcome contributions to the rubric by other foreign businesses.

### BELARUS BOLSHOI

- June 6. Jizelle: Adan.  
June 8. Nutcracker: Tchaikovsky.  
June 10. Rigoletto: Verdi.  
June 12. Rigoletto: Verdi.  
June 13. Karmina Burana: Orff.  
June 16. Karmen Suite: Bizet, Shchedrin.  
June 17. Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk County: Shostakovich.  
June 17. Nutcracker: Tchaikovsky.

### Any questions, comments or ideas?

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## A new bank called "MINSK TRANSIT BANK" was registered under No. 38 on the 14 of March in the Republic of Belarus.

It is the first Bank with the participation  
of a foreign capital in its statutory fund.

The co-founders of "Minsk Transit Bank"  
are Belarusian bank "Poisk",  
Latvian "Baltic Transit Bank",  
Swiss holding company "Korowo Invest",  
Belarusian-American-Russian JV "Belmst",  
Belarusian-Italian JV "Italmoda".



Minsk Transit Bank

**Minsk  
Transit  
Bank**

11, Surganov Str., Minsk, 220072, Belarus  
Phone 0172/395623, Fax 0172/393192



Destinations	Flight number	Days	from Moscow		to Moscow		Aircraft/Class
			Departure	Arrival	Departure	Arrival	
*ALMATY	4J205	12*4567	01.00	08.15	4J206	10.00	11.15... BOEING-757\CY
*BAKU	4J215	***4**7	14.00	17.20	4J216	18.20	21.50... BOEING-737\CY
*BAKU	4J225	*2**5**	19.00	22.20	4J226	01.15+1	04.45+1 BOEING-737\CY
*KIEV	4J201	1234567	08.00	08.40	4J202	09.30	12.00... BOEING-737\CY
*KIEV	4J211	1234567	18.30	19.00	4J212	19.50	22.10... BOEING-737\CY
*MINSK	4J203	*2**5*7	14.00	14.20	4J204	15.10	17.20... BOEING-737\CY
*NIZHNEVARTOVSK	4J105	*2*4*6*	01.30	07.10	4J106	08.00	09.40... BOEING-737\CY
*NORILSK	4J101	*3*6*	01.30	09.30	4J102	12.00	12.00... BOEING-757\CY
*NOVOSIBIRSK	4J107	1*3*5*7	02.00	09.00	4J108	10.30	11.30... BOEING-757\CY
*RIGA	4J217	1*3*5*7	17.30	17.55	4J218	19.00	21.30... BOEING-737\CY
*SOCHI	4J103	1*3***	14.00	16.20	4J104	17.20	19.50... BOEING-737\CY
*SOCHI	4J103	***5*7	14.00	16.20	4J104	17.20	19.00... BOEING-757\CY
*TASHKENT	4J209	1**4***	02.00	07.00	4J210	08.30	11.30... BOEING-737\CY
*TASHKENT	4J209	*2**5**	02.00	07.00	4J210	08.30	11.30... BOEING-757\CY
**TEL AVIV	4J301	1*****	14.25	17.35	4J302	18.35	23.30... BOEING-757\CY
**TEL AVIV	4J301	*2*4**7	12.40	15.30	4J302	17.00	21.50... IL86\CY

\* Departure from Sheremetyevo-1 airport

\*\* Departure from Sheremetyevo-2 airport

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